(c) In order to reflect, the concepts and implementation strategies of the Reproductive and Child Health Programme as well as that of National Production Policy 2000, it is envisaged to modify the under post-graduate medical, nursing and para-medical professional course syllabi and curricula in consultation with the Medical Council of India the Councils of ISMH and Indian Nursing Council.

Health care for citizens

5083. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of HELATH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that health care for the elderly as well as other age groups belonging to weaker sections throughout the country is insufficient; and

(b) if so, the steps contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) The Central Govt. along with State Govts. are making efforts for creating infrastructure facilities for providing health care to the different age groups and weaker sections. Due to resource constrains, there is some shortage of health infrastructural facilities as per norms in rural areas. Therefore, funds are being availed of from external agencies wherever feasible.

To enable the States to fill critical gaps in providing health services to the people, external assistance has been availed of by the Central Government for National Health Programmes for Malaria. T.B., Leprosy, Blindness. AIDS, Reproductive and Child Health Programme. Besides for upgrading the rural hospitals in selected States. World Bank assistance has been availed of which would further improve delivery of health services. Also, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment provides grant-in-aid to NGOs for running Mobile Medicare Units for old people.

Vacancies in Safdarjung Hospital

5084. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the category-wise vacancies existng presently in the prestigious Safdarjung Hospital of Delhi and since when; and

(b) the steps taken to fill up these vacancies to help the patients coming in large numbers for treatment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Condition of VHGS

5085. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Village Health Guides Working in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that these Village Health guides, who are getting Rs. 50/- per month, have not received their allowance since last fifty two months in Orissa; and

(c) whether Government would consider to enhance their allowance and also take steps to clear all arrears due?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) There are 323208 Village Health Guides working in the country.

(b) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare releases funds every year to the State Government. The responsibility for disbursing funds is with the State Government. During last three years funds released to Government of Orissa are as follows:—

Year	*Amount released (Rs. in lakh)*
1997-98	69.05
1998-99	69.23
1999-2000	69.23

(c) An Expert Committee has reviewed the Scheme and submitted its report which is under examination in consultation with other Ministries.

CGHS Dispensaries in Tamil Nadu

5086. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of CGHS dispensaries in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the details of facilities provided in those CGHS dispensaires;

(c) the total number of CGHS beneficiaries in Tamil Nadu; and